

# STATE OF ILLINOIS

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

### Proclamation

WHEREAS, on December 17, 1903, the Wright Brothers achieved the first powered flight of a "heavier-than-air" aircraft, and thus opened the door to some of the greatest accomplishments and events ever witnessed by human-kind in the past century; and

WHEREAS, since that date, Illinois has become a recognized leader in the aerospace industry and is the home to numerous well-known aviation companies headquartered in Illinois including United Airlines, Boeing and others; and

WHEREAS, Illinois is home to the "Busiest airport in the world," O'Hare International Airport; and

WHEREAS, Illinois is also the home to many world-renown air and space pioneers including Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman, Janet Harmon Bragg, Octave Alexander Chanute and others; and

WHEREAS, aviation is a vitally important economic engine and transportation source, which connects Illinois to the global markets while contributing to strong job and fiscal growth within the state and the country; and

WHEREAS, the future of aviation is dependent upon a well-informed and educated populace, and this celebration of powered flight is also a celebration of the ingenuity and creativity of Americans, as well as America's contributions to air and space flight;

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, proclaim May through December 2003 as CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT CELEBRATION MONTHS in Illinois.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,*  
*this* THIRTEENTH *day of* MAY, *in*  
*the Year of Our Lord two thousand and*  
THREE, *and of the State of Illinois*  
*the one hundred and* EIGHTY-FIFTH

